



COVID-19 – UPDATE – SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

16 March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, in response to the national and international review of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister announced that from today, non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people would not continue. Schools, as an essential service along with all businesses and workplaces, travel on public transport and so on, have not been included in this restriction, nor closed at this time.

However, all NSW Public Schools are being given guidelines on “social distancing” today which we will provide for our community by letter and on our School App, as well as on our website. You can also download the app **NSW School Updates** about schools’ operational status.

The NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) also provides the latest news on a range of topics, including COVID-19 on their website, which provides many useful links and resources:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/news>

There are regular NSW DoE updates also on their Twitter page: [@NSWEducation](https://twitter.com/NSWEducation)

In light of the new restrictions imposed by the Australian Government and along with updates and requirements on school operations from the NSW DoE, I met with our Executive and staff today to advise them of updated school procedures and the social distancing guidelines to be followed by all NSW Public Schools to reduce social contact in large gatherings. Even though we are a small school, this is particularly relevant for our day to day operations in order to maintain optimal health of all students, staff and community members and limit the exposure to, contact with or the spread of COVID-19. Whilst it is unfortunate that upcoming school events will need to be for students and staff only, the following changes to internal school routines and events will commence from today:

- Assemblies will not continue from this Friday until further notice
- Harmony Day = CANCELLED
- Easter Hat Parade = to be advised
- Parent/Teacher Interviews = to be advised
- Mini-Mungo Camp = to be advised
- All Community Hub Activities = CANCELLED until further notice
- Garden Playgroup = CANCELLED until further notice

As the school is kept updated by the NSW DoE and NSW Health on requirements to follow around school operations, we will keep our school community advised.

We understand that these disappointing restrictions will cause some distress and disruptions to students, our families as well as staff. We are all striving to cope in the best ways possible due to this very different local, national and international situation, to endeavour keeping our communities as safe and healthy as possible. Thank you for your understanding in these challenging times for us all.

Until such time when we are directed to close the school, our educational program will continue for all students in attendance. For students not attending, we are currently working out the best way to deliver some ‘like-work’ for students to complete at home. The Department of Education has released a suite of online resources to support families with this. We will provide more information around this over the coming days. For now, you can access these here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/continuity-of-education/advice-to-parents-and-carers>

RYDALMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Learning is Growing



Make or do a jigsaw puzzle



Try some origami

Create an obstacle course

Bake or cook something

Learn a magic trick

Paint or draw a picture



Make a joke book

Take photos of 10 living things



Build a blanket fort

Plan and hold a picnic

Make your own kite

Try a new board game



Play indoor mini-golf



Play Limbo

Write a letter to your future self

Potato sack race with pillow cases

Hold a tea-party



Make a time capsule

Hold a Karaoke concert



Play hide and seek

Open a pretend store

Blindfolded taste test

Look at photo albums

Have a paper plane contest



Play Pictionary

Play dress up



Play Restaurant

Try Yoga

Make a shoebox diorama

Learn a new card game



Put on a play

Make or play an instrument



Create a treasure hunt

Write or recite poem

Have a talent show

Make handmade presents

Choreograph a dance



Read a new book from the library

Play water bottle bowling

Play life-size Noughts and Crosses

Build the tallest tower





Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) - Current advice – NSW Government

Current advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has been in, departed from, or transited through the following countries is **excluded from child care services, school or work for 14 days from the date they left the country**:
 - mainland China - since 1 February
 - Iran - since 1 March
 - the Republic of Korea (South Korea) - since 5 March.
 - Italy - since 11 March
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- **Close contacts**** of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day home-isolation period are able to return to school or work.

NSW Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia.

****A close contact is a person who has spent significant time either face to face (15 minutes) or in an enclosed space (2 hours or more) as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is advising these close contacts about not attending work, school or early childhood and childcare services.**

The Department of Education continues to work closely with NSW Health to monitor and respond to developments and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Consistent with current guidelines, children, students and staff who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with our current practice if any student becomes unwell we will implement our infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by NSW Health as appropriate.

Practise simple hygiene by washing hands regularly



Thanks,

Beq Zadow
Principal